

Turning now to the drawings, Figure 1 presents an exploded diagram of a typical mechanical joint. Assembly of the joint according to the current invention is practiced as known in the art. Particularly, without limitation of the known variants which shall be as equally applicable to the present invention as they are to the known art, the joint contains the following elements in the following relationship. Compression ring or gland 11 is placed on a male first pipe portion, or referred to herein as spigot 10, following which gasket 2 is placed around the exterior of spigot 10. Spigot 10 is then advanced within a female second pipe portion, referred to herein as bell 12, until the end 41 of spigot 10 is stopped by an annular shoulder 42 within bell 12. Gasket 2 is advanced into bell 12 until it seats in the annular gasket recess seat 43, as shown. Gland 11 is then abutted against gasket 2 and is secured to bell 12 by restraining means 44, which are presented for illustration here as bolts 45 passing through perforations 46 and engaged by nuts 47; as is evident, upon drawing up or tightening of nuts 47, gland 11 is compressed against gasket 2, causing it to compress. Due to the constraining presence of gasket recess seat 43 and gland 11, deforming of gasket 2 is directed primarily radially inward toward and into sealing engagement with spigot 10. The invention of the present disclosure builds upon this interrelationship and requires no changes to the spigot, bell, or gland, though such changes may be accommodated within the spirit of the invention if such modifications are otherwise desired.

IN THE CLAIMS: A marked-up copy of the following amended claims is attached as Exhibit B.

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) A pipe joint as in claim 4, wherein said back portion is adapted to interpose between the lip of said gland and the second pipe portion.

Please Amend Claim 13, as follows:

13. (Thrice Amended) A gasket interchangeable with gaskets of standard mechanical pipe joints, for securing the ends of intersected assembled pipe portions, said gasket comprising a compressible body adapted to encircle a spigot end of a first pipe length and adapted to fit within a bell end of a second pipe length; said gasket having a spigot-facing surface, a gland-facing surface, and a recess seat surface; said compressible body having